



**Bishop J. S. Flipper, D.D., LL.D.**  
**A. M. E. Church**

**Residence: Atlanta, Ga.**

BISHOP FLIPPER presides over the churches in the Oklahoma and Arkansas conferences. He was born in Atlanta, Ga., February 22, 1859.

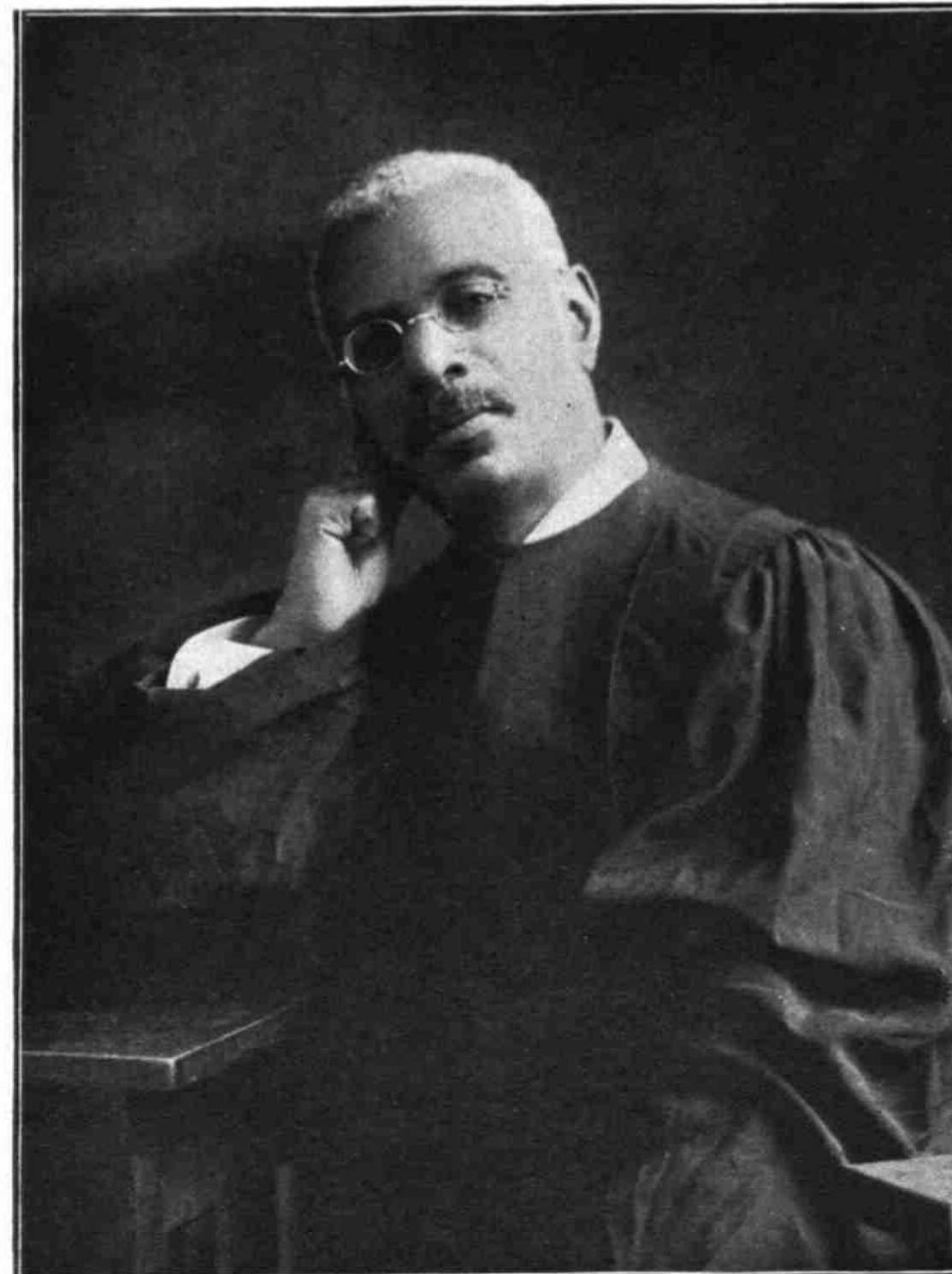
Immediately after the war he attended school in Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Atlanta, Ga., and completed his education in Storrs School and Atlanta University. He taught school in country districts, 1877 to 1880. He was converted in 1877, and two years later was licensed to exhort and preach. He joined the Georgia Conference in 1880.

He served some of the largest churches in Georgia. In 1903 he became dean of the theological department of Morris Brown College, Atlanta, and served as president from 1904 to his election as bishop in 1908. He received the Ethiopian Church of South Africa into the African Methodist Episcopal Church, June 19, 1896.

**Bishop William H. Heard, D.D.**  
**A. M. E. Church**

**Residence: Sierre Leone, West Africa**

BISHOP HEARD presides over the Thirteenth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which embraces the Sierre Leon, Liberian, and



**BISHOP WILLIAM H. HEARD, D.D.**

Gold Coast conferences and all the west coast of Africa, beginning at Freetown, Sierra Leone, and extending as far south as Lagos. He was born in Elbert County, Georgia, of slave parents, and was a slave until the surrender of Lee.

He was then fifteen years old, without even a knowledge of the alphabet. He did whatever service he could render in the vicinity in which he lived, and secured the services of a kind-hearted Yankee teacher to instruct him at night. In four years he had gained sufficient knowledge to engage in public-school work, which position he held for twelve years. He was a page in the South Carolina Legislature at the age of twenty-one, and at the same time was a student in the South Carolina University.

After five years of hard study in Greek, Latin, Hebrew, and the higher mathematics, he was appointed railway mail clerk, filling this position for several years. Soon after his conversion, he resigned the government position to enter the ministry. He filled many of the best appointments in the church and rose rapidly in the work, as minister, presiding elder, and general officer.

He was appointed by President Cleveland, in 1895, to be United States resident minister and con-general to the Republic of Liberia, which position he held with credit until the election of President McKinley.

Having spent four years in Africa and having become acquainted with its people and customs, their needs, etc., he aspired to return there, and in 1908 the General Conference elected him one of the bishops of the church and assigned him to his present districts. His wife, Mrs. Josephine Delphine Heard, is an accomplished musician, author, and educator.